



PATENT
0649-0777P

Re
HJ/A
for

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Akira SAITO et al. Conf.:
Appl. No.: 09/856,845 Group: Unassigned
Filed: May 25, 2001 Examiner: Unassigned
For: RUBBER COMPOSITIONS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

July 10, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following claims:

--16. A process for producing a rubbery polymer having a high modification ratio through reaction of a diene polymer having an active end and a modifier, comprising the steps of:

reacting impurities contained in a monomer and a solvent with an organic metal compound to inactivate the impurities;

feeding the monomer and solvent into a polymerization reactor;

and

carrying out polymerization.--